THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018 *Volume 26, Number 2*

NEW
TWO SHILLINGS AND EIGHT PENCE
YORK
ONE THIRD of a DOLLAR. No. 14205
THIS BILL shall pass current in all PAYMENTS in this Colony, for TWO SHILLINGS and EIGHT PENCE, (being equal to One Third of a Spanish Milled Dollar) or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver; according to the Resolution of the Provincial Congress of New-York, on the fifth Day of March, 1776.
2 s. 8 d.
2/8.
James Jarvis
ONE THIRD OF A Dollar
ONE THIRD OF A DOLLAR

New York, One-Third Dollar, March 5, 1776
Signed by Connecticut Coinage Partner, James Jarvis (See Page 13)
Image Courtesy of Ray Williams

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- Understanding Bifurcation on Coin Legends
- The Tribulations of Silversmith Samuel Casey
- James Jarvis – A New Discovery for Me
- Perpignan Mint French Sols Dated 1725-1734: Hat Engraver Mark
- John Law Copper Coins: Size Matters. Population Estimates
- Unpublished Overdates in the John Law Copper Series
- Building a Provenance for an Unusual Coin
- Book Review: Ron Chernow's *Hamilton*
- C4 Library News
- Classic from 1993: Punch Link Evidence & Attribution
- Announcements & Advertisements of Interest

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Whitman Coin & Collectibles Winter Expo
October 24-26, 2018 • Baltimore, Maryland

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The C4 Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 2

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554. Dues are $30 regular (including 1st class mailing of the *Newsletter within the US*) and $40 (for 1st class mailing outside the US); $10 for junior members (under 18 residing in the US) and $15 (under 19 residing outside the US.)

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jack Howes)

The calendar has just turned to summer as I write this column and I spend as much time outside as I can -- summer is far too short around here! However, it is not too early to plan to attend the C4 convention in Baltimore, October 25-28 [a couple weeks earlier this year.] Please mark your calendars now, or better yet make your reservations! It would be great to see some new faces. I guarantee you will have a good time. We have good food and interesting speakers lined up for our Thursday educational evening.

Dave Bowers [Stack's-Bowers] has just published a new book on Vermont coinage. Kris Karstedt of Stack's-Bowers has sent out a special offer on this book for all C4 members. Please take advantage. We will also have several book signings at our table this year. Dave Bowers will talk about writing this Vermont book, answer questions and then sign books. Syd Martin will also be signing his St. Patrick's book. Check the program for date/time.

As noted in my previous column, C4 will have donated lots auction this year at our convention. We have begun collecting items. **Please consider donating something.** We are interested in donations of anything with colonial content. What we have found works well is colonial numismatic literature. Or colonial ephemera. Please contact Craig McDonald who is organizing this fund raiser for the club.

This is an election year for C4 and, accordingly, a ballot for the slate of officers who will lead your club is enclosed. All of the incumbents have agreed to run again. All are currently running unopposed, though write-in candidates may certainly be added to the ballot. **Please be sure that you send in your votes to Jay Knipe's email or snail mail address before September 30. Jay's address can be found in the newsletter and on the ballot itself.** A thank you to our nominating committee, Leo Shane and Syd Martin, for getting this all organized.

I got a note while writing this that the sales of the Syd Martin's St. Patrick book have already covered the club's outlay for startup costs! You will find an announcement of the St. Patrick book in this issue. If you don't have your copy, get one. This will be the definitive work on this series.

One of the main goals of your club is numismatic education and we are always looking for potential books. In addition to the two the club published this year, there are two more in the pipeline. Roger Moore is working on a book about Virginia copper coinage and Randy Clark is finalizing a long-awaited volume on the Connecticut coinage. If you have a book you are thinking about writing or are in the process of writing, please contact either myself of David Menchell (publications committee chair.)

Also on the subject of numismatic books, the *Contemporary Counterfeit Families* book had a 2nd printing. A number of formatting changes were made based on feedback

from initial reviewers. If you have any interest in this emerging area of colonial collecting, get a copy. There is a full page ad in this issue.

The ANA summer show is in Philadelphia this year which I know is close to a lot of colonial collectors. I probably won't make it but I know a lot of you will.

Finally, I want to mention that Mark Vitunic and I are working on several articles for the newsletter on Vermont coinage. Mark arranged a visit to the Vermont Historical society at the end of May and photographed their entire collection which is mostly Vermont coppers missing only RR-33 and RR-37 from being a complete collection. Mark was able to record weights for each coin and in the case of the two Ryder 5s was able to perform a specific gravity test. I processed the raw images and created labeled images. We provided a set of these to the museum. Below is one example:

Ryder 3
158.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.1

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C4/EAC REGION MEETING AT GSNA CONVENTION

Somerset, NJ Saturday May 19, 2018

On Saturday May 19th at 1:00 PM, a joint meeting of C4 and EAC members was held At the Garden State Numismatic Association annual convention. The meeting was jointly run by Greg Heim and Ray Williams. Eleven were in attendance, all are EAC members and eight are C4 members also.. We had the room reserved for an hour but the meeting ran well past.

Kevin Vinton summarized his experiences at EAC 2018 in Traverse City. The description sounded like it was well planned and executed. Those in attendance enjoyed the bourse and all the amenities available at the hotel and the surrounding area. The overall attendance was lower than last year. Educational events and the Happenings were well attended. The Thursday Reception, EAC Sale and all planned events went off without a hitch.

A general discussion was held on the topics of books, publications, future EAC and C4 Conventions. A request was made, on behalf of editors, to submit articles for all to enjoy. A camera and projector was set up to show coins and paper money brought for a show-n-tell. As co-moderator of the meeting, I must say how much I appreciate Kevin Vinton and Frank Jozapaitis for attending the full meeting. Both had tables on the bourse floor and this meeting took them Away for more than an hour, just shortly before the bourse was to close, and on a Saturday too.

Attendees:

Jeff Burke
Carl Feldman
Greg Heim
Jesse Jaycox
Frank Jozapaitis
Tom Keenan
Joe LoGiudice
Frank Stillinger
Kevin Vinton
George Weintraub
Ray Williams

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UNDERSTANDING BIFURCATION ON COIN LEGENDS

(Gary A. Trudgen)

We all have seen it on the eighteenth century coins that we love. The bottoms of some legend letters are bifurcated, where the serif appears to be forked or split.

Figure 1: Well-made counterfeit British halfpenny, dated 1770, displaying bifurcated legend letters. The ordinal units are enlarged to better show the bifurcation.

One wonders why this bifurcation is seen on some coins and not others. Were the letter punches used to make the legends on the die bifurcated or was it an artifact of the minting process? If the bifurcation was in the die or the puncheon used to make the die, why does the bifurcation always appear on the inner circumference of the legend? If it is a result of the minting process, how does it occur?

Many eighteenth century coins were struck without the use of retaining collars. Thus, when a planchet was struck between upper and lower dies, the metal of the planchet not only flowed orthogonally (at right angles from the die face) to fill the cavities of the design in the dies, it also flowed along the radius toward the circumference, enlarging the diameter of the planchet. The amount of metal flow is dependent upon the striking pressure and the softness of the planchet metal. Both of these governing factors were not rigidly controlled in the eighteenth century. In the second half of the century, most coins were struck on human-powered screw presses. Thus, the striking pressure depended upon how energetic the men were who swung the lever arm of the press. The softness of the planchet metal was governed by how well it had been annealed, if at all.

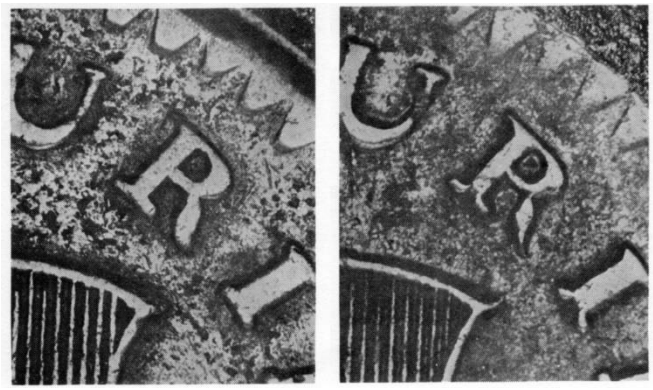

Figure 2: 1788 New Jersey copper, Maris reverse "v". Two coins struck by the same die. The left coin does not exhibit bifurcation while the coin on the right does.

Figure 2 shows the same section of two separate coins struck from the same die. As can be seen, the coin on the right shows bifurcation of the legend letters "RI" while the other coin does not. Was the die altered between the striking of these two specimens? It doesn't appear that these two letters were re-punched using bifurcated puncheons or that the die itself was somehow modified. So, the change in the look of these legend letters must be due to differences in the minting process. Note that only the bases of the legend letters are bifurcated. Plus the bifurcation only occurs on letters where the main stroke of that letter is parallel or nearly parallel to the direction of the radial metal flow.

When a planchet is struck, ideally the metal should flow in an orthogonal direction filling the design cavities in the die. If a retaining collar is not used, metal also flows outward along the radius of the planchet expanding the diameter. Design elements in the die, such as the legend, that are located along the circumference are affected by this radial flow of metal. When the outward flow of metal encounters a legend letter cavity in the die and that cavity is in line with this metal flow, such as the letter "I", the metal fills the cavity from the top (the part of the letter closest to the periphery of the planchet) to the base of the letter. If there is not enough metal flow to completely fill the inline stroke of the letter, the serif located at the base of the stroke is not completed resulting in a split serif as shown in the right image of Figure 2.

The primary reason that there is not enough metal flow to fill all of the design cavities is the absence of a retaining collar. Metal that could have been used to fill these cavities goes instead to expand the diameter of the planchet. Also contributing to this problem is striking pressure and the softness of the planchet metal. The absence of a retaining collar can be overcome through the use of more striking pressure and/or softer planchet metal. This is why some coins display bifurcated legend letters and others struck from the same die do not.

As discussed, bifurcation develops when there is inadequate metal flow to fill the cavity of a legend letter. But, what is the outcome if there is more than enough metal flow to fill the cavity due to excessive striking pressure or the planchet metal was too soft? Figure 3 illustrates such an occurrence where the striking pressure was too much, producing what is termed horned serifs along the outer circumference of the ordinals in the legend. This phenomenon is not seen nearly as often as bifurcated serifs. In summary, bifurcated serifs occur at the base of the letters along the inner circumference of the legend while horned serifs are found along the outer circumference of the legend: the first incident resulting from not enough metal flow while the second from too much metal flow. Exactly how metal flows when a coin is struck is a complex subject and determined by many factors.

Figure 3: (Left image) Crude counterfeit halfpenny illustrating horned serifs. The tops of the ordinals along the outer circumference of the legend have been pulled by excessive radial metal flow towards the edge of the coin. In this specimen, more striking pressure was applied to this sector of the coin because the upper and lower die faces were not parallel.
(Right image) A different specimen struck by the same obverse die. Here the striking pressure was evenly spread across the planchet not resulting in excessive metal flow and distorted legend letters along the outer circumference of the legend.

The next time you see a bifurcated or distorted legend letter it is unlikely the result of a die engraver using an ornate puncheon but rather a product of the minting process, specifically radial metal flow that develops when a retaining collar is not used.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Roger Moore, Jeff Rock and Rickie Rose for critiquing this article and making suggestions for improvement.

Photo Credits: *The Colonial Newsletter*, Jack Howes, Roger Moore, and Byron Weston.

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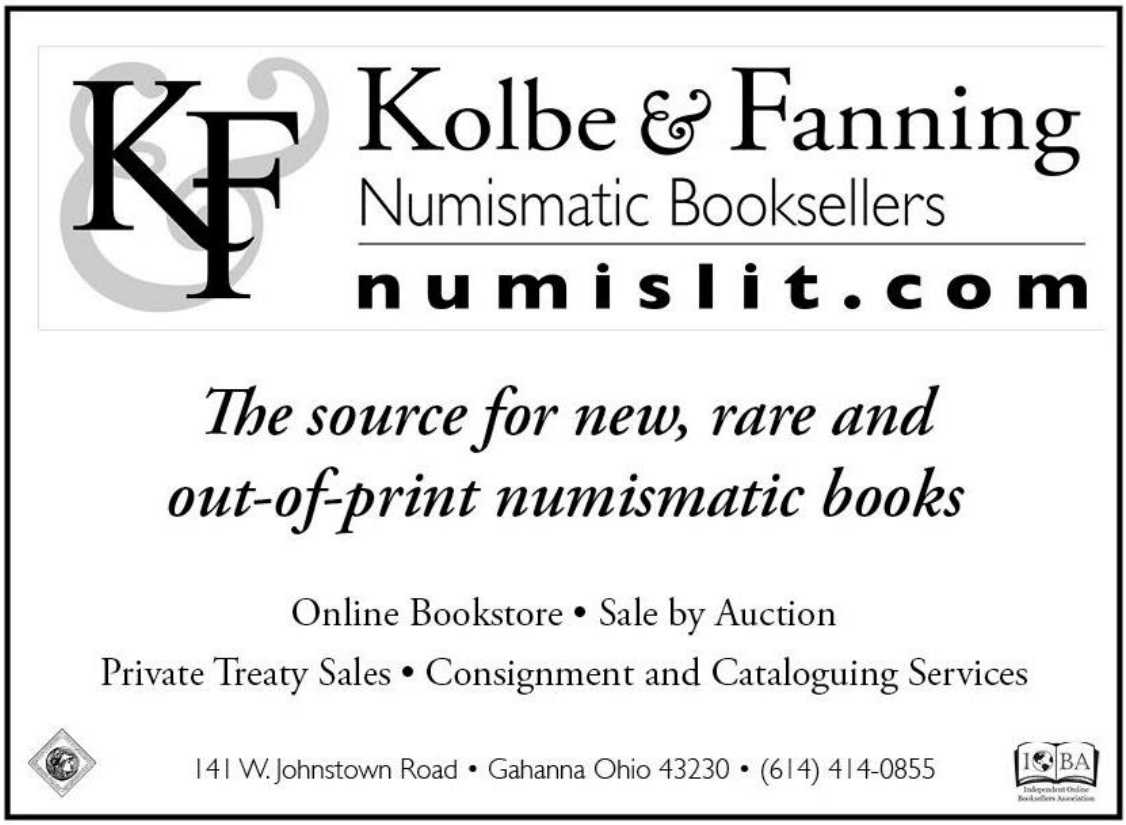
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THE TRIBULATIONS OF SILVERSMITH SAMUEL CASEY

(Russell Easterbrooks)

Samuel Casey was born in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1723/4. His father was Samuel Casey (1686-1752), his mother was Dorcas Ellis Casey and he was one of six children.

Casey took up the trade of a silversmith and was said to have apprenticed with Boston silversmith Jacob Hurd, although this seems unlikely. Hurd had two sons who apprenticed with him during that possible time period, Nathaniel and Benjamin, who later became accomplished silversmiths.

It's far more likely Casey apprenticed with a Newport, RI silversmith circa 1740. Newport had a number of prominent American silversmiths, including: Benjamin Benton (1659-1749,) John Tanner (1713-1785,) John Coddington (1690-1743,) Thomas Arnold (1739- 1828,) Daniel Rogers (1753-1792) and Jonathan Otis (1723-1790.)

Silversmithing is an artistic craft where the workmanship adds permanent value to the finished product. The silversmith acquired his silver from coins much of which came from the Spanish colonies. It was common for the customer to gather enough silver coin and give it to his chosen silversmith asking for a tankard, a chamberstick, or any other item.

Casey was admitted as a freeman in Exeter, RI in 1745. By 1750 he had moved to Kingstown RI, to a village called Little Rest. Casey had apprenticed as a silversmith, yet official documents identified him as a silver or goldsmith, and merchant. This is about the time he made a teapot for Abigail Robinson for her marriage to John Wanton, in 1752.

Silver and wood teapot made by Samuel Casey, in 1752, for Abigail Robinson.
Photo credit: National Museum of American History website, at
http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1050425, last accessed July 1, 2018.

Casey presumably operated a shop from his home. According to the *Newport Mercury,* his home and shop burned down, September 1764. The fire was thought to have started from the preceding days work at his forge:

> …the house of Samuel Casey Esq.; of South Kingstown, was reduced to ashes. A large variety of furniture , a considerable quantity of European goods, with drugs, medicines, &c. makes Mr. Casey's loss, as we are informed, amount to near two thousand pounds sterling. The most of his books, and small part of furniture, were the principal of what was saved.

Throughout 1765 - 1768 Casey was repeatedly brought before the Newport and Providence Courts of Common Pleas, for failure to pay debts. The loss of his shop and tools and equipment, not to mention any silver or gold work in progress, must have been difficult. A silversmith's tool inventory was quite large as we see from the last will and testament of John Burt a Boston Silversmith 1745:

> …2 show glasses, pair of chapes and tongs, 11 files, a pair of lager and small bellows, a large forging anvil, 9 raised anvils, planishing teaster, 2 spoon teasters, 3 bench vises, 9 small vises, a break iron, 40 hammers, 2 melting skillets, 37 bottom stakes and punches, drawing irons, 10 pair shears, a brass hollowin stamp, a pair of brass salt punches, 1 thimble stamp, 6 pair molds for casting, 15 pair of tongs and plyers, a pair of scales and weights, pewter and lead molds, 36 old files, 12 strainers, 3 small saws, 4 boreax boxes, 3 burnishes, 1 triblet, a boiling pan, a parcel of punches, 1 touch stone…

In September 1770 Samuel and his younger brother (Gideon) were imprisoned for making and passing counterfeit dollars. On October 18, Samuel Casey was "…indicted for felony, in making and uttering counterfeit dollars." The trial lasted until 8 o clock in the evening "until the Jury brought in their verdict, Not Guilty." The court told the jury that their verdict "was contrary to law and evidence that it could not be accepted."

The Jury was sent out again and, in the afternoon returned with a verdict the Court accepted. Casey was sentenced to death by hanging, which he immediately appealed.

The case was widely covered in the colonies, because of the Court's ruling against the jury. We see where new evidence appears from the pages of Benjamin Franklin's newly purchased *Pennsylvania Gazette,* November 8th 1770:

> We are Told in a field in Little Rest, a sett of instruments has been found belonging to Samuel Casey, for counterfeiting, Josephus's 1756, 1760, and 1763, and for dollars of 1766, 1767. At Tower Hill a sett was found concealed in a stone wall belonging to Samuel Wilson, for counterfeiting dollars, 1748, 1763, 1764, and 1769; likewise Pistareens of 1755.

This is a rare account of dies by type and date being listed in a newspaper or documents. Not sure why/how, they were tied to Casey, but it would seem to damage his

appeal. Some dated dies were before Casey's fire, which leaves one wondering, how many coins were made and passed in earlier years. Casey was known for his high quality silversmith work, so it would seem logical that his dies were of equal quality, making counterfeit coins difficult to detect.

However, Casey's luck was about to turn as, on November 20th 1770, the *Essex Gazette* reported:

> Saturday last a considerable number of people riotously assembled in Kings County, and which their faces black'd proceeded to his Majesty's Goal there the outer door of which they broke open with iron bars and pick-axes; they violently entered the Goal [jail] broke every lock therein, and set at liberty sundry criminals viz. William Reynolds, Thomas Clarke, Elisha Reynolds, and Samuel Casey, lately convicted of money-making, one of whom was under sentence of death. (Casey)

Horses were provided by the crowd to assist in their escape. It appears most of the escaped prisoners were caught for passing counterfeit coins. (Casey's ??)

The Rhode Island General Assembly offered a reward of 50 pounds, for Casey's capture. Casey escaped the colony and probably died in 1773. Land records of April 13th 1773 show, "Martha Casey, Gentle woman, late wife of Samuel Casey of South Kingstown" sold lands in that town.

The Narragansett Historical Register, 1882, Vol.1 p. 60, describes his later home after the fire, circa 1768, on Kingstown Hill as a gamble-roof structure. When under repair counterfeit dies were discovered under the roof rafters.

I feel it is safe to speculate that Casey very likely made and passed, during the mid-1700s, counterfeit coins. Given his diverse assortment of die types, Josephus', Dollars and Pistareens, it suggests that he passed different coins at different times. If counterfeits during this time period could be found by collectors, they very likely could be Casey's workmanship.

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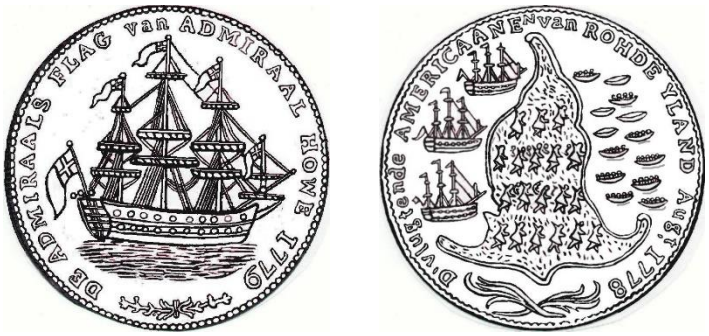


JAMES JARVIS – A NEW DISCOVERY FOR ME

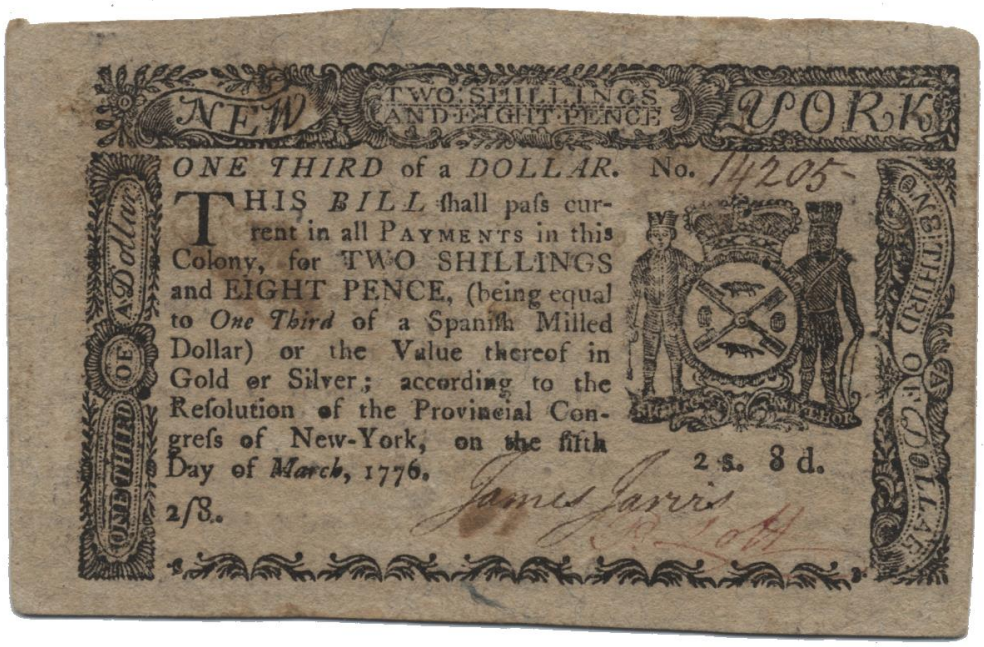
(Ray Williams)

James Jarvis is a name familiar to most of us who have been collecting colonials for some time. For those who don't know the name, Jarvis was involved with coinage during our Confederation era. He was a partner in the Company for Coining Coppers (CCC,) eventually gaining controlling interest. In 1785 the CCC established its mint in New Haven, CT that struck the Connecticut coppers that many collect and study. In June 1787, The CCC was reorganized and renamed James Jarvis & Company (JJ&C.)

This reorganization came a month after Jarvis' petition to coin Fugio Coppers was approved. The JJ&C was now minting both Connecticut and Fugio coppers. Briefly, the business aspect of Jarvis' endeavor does not look good in print. He bribed a federal official to obtain the Fugio contract. He accepted copper from the government and only returned a fraction in struck coppers. The unaccounted-for copper was most likely used to strike more profitable Connecticut coppers. Jarvis traveled to England to obtain copper, presumably to replace the missing government copper. He failed in this mission.

I'll stop here and get to the point of my article. There is plenty written on the topics and I strongly recommend pursuing further information. Several years ago, I was communicating with Randy Clark and he informed me that James Jarvis had actually signed New York paper money about a decade before becoming involved with coinages! He sent me an email with a picture of his Jarvis-singed bill. Having an interest in colonial paper, I had a moral obligation to attempt to obtain his specimen. After embarrassing begging, groveling and offers of trade and cash… I failed.

For years, a search of eBay lots proved fruitless. Then when least expected, John Kraljevich came to the rescue with an attractive example that was in my price range. My search ended on June 20, 2018! Now starts the fun part of doing research. Who was James Jarvis in New York in 1776 that made him important enough to be one of the signers of these bills? With the British occupation of New York, where were these bills printed and signed? How many bills did Jarvis sign? How rare are they? (I searched and found none at Heritage and just one in the Ford Sale.) And who is Abraham Lott, who also signed this bill? Any communications on this bill (or any colonial topic) is welcome.


NEW
TWO SHILLINGS AND EIGHT PENCE
YORK
ONE THIRD of a DOLLAR.
No. 11205
THIS BILL ſhall paſs current in all PAYMENTS in this Colony, for TWO SHILLINGS and EIGHT PENCE, (being equal to One Third of a Spaniſh Milled Dollar) or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver; according to the Reſolution of the Provincial Congreſs of New-York, on the fifth Day of March, 1776.
2 s. 8 d.
2/8.
ONE THIRD of a Dollar
ONE THIRD OF A DOLLAR

COLONY OF NEW-YORK
TWO SHILLINGS and EIGHT PENCE,
New-York Currency.
ONE THIRD of a DOLLAR.
N E W - Y O R K:
PRINTED by Samuel London, in the Year M.DCC.LXXVI.
ONE THIRD of a DOLLAR
ONE THIRD of a DOLLAR

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[Editor's Note: The C4 Newsletter attempts to follow an unwritten policy of refraining from printing multiple articles by the same author in an issue. Likewise, we try to avoid multiple articles on the same or very closely related subjects in a given issue. However, for this issue, we received the following three, excellent, related submissions from two authors. Because these works are complementary, the decision was made to break with traditions. We hope you enjoy them.]

PERPIGNAN MINT FRENCH SOLS DATED 1725-1734: HAT ENGRAVER MARK

(Martin L. Smith)

The French sols and demi-sols associated with the John Law period in France and New France, began in 1719. At least 8 mints struck the 1719 through 1722 issues.[1] However, the mintage of the *Sol Buste Enfantin* design continued until 1734 by the Perpignan mint in the south of France. French sols dated 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1728, and 1734 carry the "Q" mintmark of the Perpignan mint (Figure 1.) They are rare, and they tend to be quite rustic when they are found. Why are they rustic? To begin with, corrosion has taken its toll over the many years. Second, the planchets on which the coins were struck were often uneven. This latter aspect makes it difficult to find coins with full dates and legends. The series overall was characterized by impurities in the copper, not confined to Perpignan. However, it is possible that (some) Perpignan issues contained an even higher percentage of contaminating metals, compared to the series overall.[2]

The Perpignan sols dated 1725, 1726, 1728, and 1734 show a hat engraver mark at 11:00 on the reverse, just before the date.[1] The hat is the mark of Louis Brodus II, engraver at the Perpignan mint (Figure 2.) The Perpignan sols dated 1722, 1723, and 1724 predate the appearance of Louis Brodus II at Perpignan, and thus lack the hat mark. They carry a different mark instead.

I was curious where Louis Brodus II came from. Did he work at another mint prior to his arrival at Perpignan? The Gadoury reference lists all known engraver marks and their associated engravers. Louis Brodus II is not listed as having worked at any other French mint prior to Perpignan. The hat mark was not used by any other engraver.

An "unknown" engraver used the hat mark at the Montpellier mint (mintmark N) during the years 1718 and 1719. I located a *20 Sols de Navarre* coin dated 1719, showing the hat. Interestingly, Louis Brodus I was listed as the Montpellier mint engraver in 1711, only a few years prior.[1] Therefore, one might hypothesize that Louis Brodus II served as an apprentice engraver, under direction of his father, Louis Brodus I, at the Montpellier mint (Figure 3.) He then later worked as chief engraver at Perpignan.

Figure 1. Perpignan mint sol dated 1725. Note the hat engraver mark and the mintmark "Q." The coin measures 29 mm in diameter.

Figure 2. The hat engraver mark of Louis Brodus II was used in 1725, 1726, 1728, and 1734. Shown are enlarged images of 1725 and 1728 Perpignan mint issues.

Figure 3. Hat engraver mark by an "unknown" engraver appears on the *20 Sols de Navarre* coin. It is dated 1719 and carries the "N" (Montpellier) mintmark. As Brodus' father is documented to have worked at Montpellier only a few years earlier, it is hypothesized that Brodus was trained as an engraver by his father. The coin measures 23 mm in diameter. The star on the obverse is the mint director's mark.

References:

[1] Gadoury, Victor, *Monnaie Royales Francaises*, Monte Carlo, Franz Druckerei und Verlag, 1986.

[2] Anton, William T and Kesse, B., *Forgotten Coins of the North American Colonies*, Iola, WI, Krause Publications, 1992.

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JOHN LAW COPPER COINS: SIZE MATTERS. POPULATION ESTIMATES.

(Martin L. Smith)

I have collected and studied the coins known as "John Law coppers" for almost 20 years. They are a subject of U.S. and Canadian colonial interest. Breen's Encyclopedia lists the coins as Class 3 U.S. colonials and gives their diameter as 25 mm.[1] The *Red Book* shows a John Law copper coin and lists the diameter as 25 mm.[2]

It is important to note the diameter of any such coins in one's collection, or in browsing dealer inventories. Gadoury's reference *Monnaies Royales Francaise* is a definitive reference for French coins of the colonial period.[3] Size matters. The copper coins known as "John Law coppers" were struck on three different size planchets. All have the same design, the child bust of Louis XV, or *buste enfantin*, but they vary by size. The largest is properly known as a *Sol Buste Enfantin.* It measures 28 to 32 mm in diameter. The smallest is the *Liard Buste Enfantin*. It is a small coin measuring only 21 mm in diameter. The intermediate size seems to be the one referenced by Breen and in the Red Book. It is the *Demi-Sol* (or one-half sol) *Buste Enfantin.* It measures 25-26 mm in diameter (Figure 1.) Although all are collectable as colonials, the diameter of the coin has great importance to its relative rarity.[4]

The purpose of this article is to update the relative populations for the John Law copper coins, by size, date, and mintmark. In the Internet age, one can browse dealers inventories in far-away France. I also frequent Canadian dealer inventories. It is important that the dealer list the size of coins offered. Or, if not, I simply ask them for measurements.

I have taken note of 229 specimens of sols, and 206 specimens of demi-sols over the past 18 years and compiled a listing by date and mintmark. They are listed as a Table in this article (Table 1). One may assume that hundreds more are in collections and not available for current viewing or listing. I do not collect the farthing-sized liards. Therefore, I offer no information on the liards.

Relative population of sols 1719-1734	**229 specimens**
1719-A (Paris mint)	12/229 = 5.2%
1719-S (Reims mint)	18/229 = 7.8 %
1720-S	81/229 = 35.4%
1723-Q (Perpignan mint)	65/229 = 28.4%
Other dates (7 dates) and mintmarks (>14 mints)	Remaining 23.2%

Relative population of demi-sols 1719-1724	**206 specimens**
1719-AA (Metz mint)	14/206 = 6.8%
1720-AA	24/206 = 11.7%
1720-S (Reims mint)	75/206 = 36.4%
1721-A (Paris mint)	19/206 = 9.2%
Other dates (3 dates) and mintmarks (>16 mints)	Remaining 35.9%

Table 1. Population estimates of *Buste Enfantin* sols and demi-sols.

To illustrate the importance of coin diameter, envision a coin listed on Ebay as a "French sol". It is dated 1719-S (Reims mint). You like the coin's appearance. If the dealer notes the diameter of the coin as 30 mm, then the coin is indeed a "1719-S sol" and a reasonable price might be $200 USD. Imagine, on the other hand, that the dealer does not indicate the diameter but you purchase the coin anyway. You receive it and measure it as 26 mm. It is a 1719-S demi-sol.

You consult the Gadoury reference and it says *remise de poincons*, which loosely translates to "mintage melted or destroyed." So, instead of just a "satisfactory" specimen, your specimen may be "unique," or a sole survivor. Of course, this could work the other way too. Before paying $1,000 USD (or more) for a coin, make sure it is not overpriced. There are indeed some "sole survivors" out there, but there are also some overpriced coins. Hopefully, passing this knowledge along will be helpful to fellow collectors.

References:

[1] Breen, Walter, *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, New York, Doubleday, 1988.

[2] Yeoman, R.S., *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, Atlanta, GA, Whitman Publishing, 2009.

[3] Gadoury, Victor, *Monnaie Royales Francaises*, Monte Carlo, Franz Druckerei und Verlag, 1986.

[4] Smith, Martin L., "John Law's demi-sols of 1719-24," *The Numismatist*, July, 2010, pp. 57-59.

Figure 1. Examples of *Sols* and *Demi-Sols au Buste Enfantin*. The first is a 1719-A (Paris mint) sol in AU grade. It measures 31 mm in diameter. The second is a 1722-K (Bordeaux mint) demi-sol. It measures 26 mm in diameter.

UNPUBLISHED OVERDATES IN THE JOHN LAW COPPER SERIES

(Jeff Rock)

Overdates are well known in the colonial series and tend to fall into two categories. The first is when an incorrect number (or numerals) was punched in and then corrected – the 1787 Connecticut copper Miller 12-Q is a spectacular example of this, as the date was originally punched in as 1877. The second and third numerals are switched (an easy mistake to make when dies needed to be cut in backwards); for this particular error the engraver noticed it before hardening the die, and he corrected is mistake by lightly grinding down the erroneous digits and heavily punching a 7 over the 8 and an 8 over the 7, giving the correct 1787 date, though the original digits are still visible with a glass. The second category isn't due to error, but to frugality. Sometimes a dated-die was perfectly usable at the end of the year and instead of tossing it, a coiner would simply change the date to reflect the following year, again grinding down the digit(s) not needed and punching in the new one(s.)

Figure 1: 1787 Connecticut copper reverse die Q (used only in the Miller 12-Q combination,) the date was originally punched in as 1877 and corrected, in the die, to 1787 – remnants of the original numerals are still visible. (All photographs courtesy of the author.)

The coinage of France for its North American colonies is something of a poster child for this second category, as the various mints in France that struck these types of coins seem to have never actually wasted a die if it was still serviceable! For the series of copper 9 deniers which was struck in just two years, 1721 and 1722, there are many varieties known where the final digit of the 1722 is cut over a 1 (these are described in auctions and elsewhere as 1722/1.) In his masterful work on this series, Syd Martin identified 13 different reverse dies that have the 1722/1 overdate – which is the exact same number of dies that have a normal 1722 date, so for the 26 reverse dies known dated 1722, half of them were recycled from the previous year!

For the silver billon coinage of *Sous Marques* that was issued from 1738-1764 and initially struck by all 29 French mints (dwindling down to just one or two mints in later years) a huge number of overdates are known – for the issues of the Paris Mint alone (which struck more of these coins than the other mints combined) Bob Vlack's work lists nearly 40 different overdate varieties – this for a series that was struck for just 26 years! Some of the overdates are simply mind-boggling, such as 1760/58/4, others are the expected ones with the new date being one year later than the one originally on the die. While some of the overdates listed in Vlack's work have been questioned, there are many examples where the overdates are clear to the naked eye.

There are several other series in the North American French Colonies issues that have not received as much attention, simply because there are no reference works written on them (yet.) The largest series is the re-coined sols, struck from 1692 to 1705. These coins were struck over earlier billon coins (some with the 1640 *fleur-de-lis* countermark that revalued them for North American circulation.) Overstriking earlier designs and (especially) the coins of earlier rulers was a popular pastime at the French mints – and each new king seemed to take immense pleasure in erasing the image of his predecessor (and you thought psychological issues between fathers and sons only started in the Freudian era!) Overdates are also known in the re-coined sol series, but nowhere near the frequency level of the *Sous Marques.*

Another series that needs a good reference work written is the "John Law" coinage – the issues that were coined while much of the French economy was under the control of John Law (though coins of the same general design began the year before Law consolidated power and continued for a few years after his downfall.)[1] These coins – issued in many denominations in copper, silver and gold – were not specifically minted to circulate in the North American colonies, though some certainly made the journey over in the general mishmash of world coins that circulated in the New World. The silver and gold issues would have circulated at a small premium over their precious metal value to keep them from returning to France in trade, while the copper issues would have circulated at higher than their authorized value in the French Colonies for the same reason. Normally a world coin that only sporadically showed up in the American Colonies would not be one seriously sought by collectors in this country, but the John Law coinage holds a unique place in numismatics – it may not have circulated much <u>in</u> America, but it existed only <u>because</u> of America.

John Law's financial scheme initially succeed and soon failed because of a financial bubble – many times larger in terms of share of the economy than our more recent tech stock and housing market bubbles. While books have been written about what came to be called "the Mississippi Bubble" the long and short of it is that after forming a private bank that issued paper money, Law was appointed Controller General of Finances for France, and soon made many changes – some quite beneficial (and still used today,) others with disastrous consequences that would leave their mark on the French economy for many years to follow. Law's financial ideas literally pulled France out of one economic crisis – and into another. But the crisis that came was due less to unsound policies on his part, but rather overzealous confidence by investors.

[1] A good English-language account of Law's ideas and their numismatics consequences can be found in Michael Hodder's essay "The *Compagnie Des Indes* and the *Premier Benefice Des Monnaies*: French Coinage and the Mississippi Scheme, 1719-1720" which appeared in *Canadian Numismatics: A Collection of Papers on Canadian Historical Numismatic Subjects,* edited by Warren Baker, Montreal, 1999. Walter Breen's "North American Colonial Coinage Under the French Regime (1670-1763)" in *Studies on Money in Early America,* edited by Eric Newman, The American Numismatic Society, 1976, has a good amount of information and formed the basis of the same author's account of the series in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins,* though this article has more historical detail. Breen's look at the actual French coins likely in use in the North American colonies is more thorough than Hodder's account which, of course, was restricted just to the coinage issued under John Law.

The financial bubble that came about had its basis in the formation of The Mississippi Company, which actually consolidated all the smaller Louisiana trading companies into one monopoly firm. In 1719 the government authorized Law to issue 50,000 shares of the Company, to be sold to the public at 500 livres per share – a substantial sum of money at the time. The gold *Louis d'or* coin was valued at 24 livres and it would take nearly 21 of those coins to buy a single share, something impossible for all but the richest investor (500 livres in 1720 works out to roughly $8,000 in today's money[2] – not quite a Berkshire-Hathaway level stock price, but still an awful lot of money for one share of stock!). Law tried to make shares of the Company affordable to more people and they were sold under contract for 75 livres down, and 19 monthly payments of 25 livres apiece – still impossible for the poorer classes, but allowing many tradespeople and the middle classes to acquire shares in the Company (which was scheduled to have dividend payments of 4% per year, helping a bit with the monthly payments due.)

Somehow, delusions of unlimited profit potential swirled in the minds of frenzied investors and the shares quickly jumped in price – indeed, they doubled before the second installment was even due! Perhaps every investor around would jump on board when shares literally doubled in value in just a month – and that investor excitement pushed share prices higher with each coming month: the shares debuted in May 1719 at 500 livres each – and by December of that year, just seven months later, they stood at over 10,000 livres per share! This was an absurd valuation, as the Company would have never made enough profit made to justify that level of worth unless a mountain of gold had been discovered somewhere in the area – and while the 4% dividend was nice, it was based on the original share price, so the dividend paid to those who purchased at 10,000 livres was really just a fraction of one-percent.

Inevitably, what goes up must come down – and what went up at record speed fell at the same velocity. The shares crashed, falling quickly to 4,000 livres by May 1720 (still a great profit for those who bought early and were smart enough to sell at that point,) but eventually becoming worthless. The smartest (or luckiest) investors got out while the share prices were rising – but even though they made money on their investment they still suffered when the shares became worthless as prices rose quickly, precious metal again disappeared, and the entire national economy was affected. Those who rode the wave to the end lost their entire investment, and since many of those people had also borrowed to buy shares or leveraged to buy even more, the chain of disaster was even wider.

Law's own personal history presents the same roller-coaster ride as his control of finances did! Born into a wealthy family in Scotland, Law later moved to London to live the life of a dandy, gambling (and losing) much of his wealth. While in London, Law fought a duel over the affections of a woman, killing his opponent with a single thrust of his sword – for which he was arrested for murder and sentenced to hang. The penalty was later reduced to a fine, which outraged the brother of the man killed, who appealed, having Law imprisoned again – but not for long, as Law was able to escape to Amsterdam where his interest in eco-

[2] Based on contemporary exchange rates (which of course fluctuated) in much of 1720 500 French livres would have purchased slightly over 37 British pounds; historical calculators are available online to estimate what a pound in various times would be worth today, and the equation from that number of current pounds into US dollars equates to the sum quoted here. As the livre gained or fell in relation to the pound (i.e. due to Law's policies), these numbers would have fluctuated.

nomics grew, and he traveled extensively between the Netherlands and France, dealing in financial speculations. The state of the French economy was in disrepair after the many wars waged by Louis XIV, and the country had little precious metal, very little coinage and crippling amounts of national debt. Law's banking system and monopoly companies reversed the trend, bringing precious metal back in (to purchase shares of stock), and using it to mint new coinage for the nation. The business model succeeded so well that Law's company loaned the French government 1.5 billion livres to pay off the ENTIRE national debt (at an interest rate of just 3%); this load was funded solely by the issue of another 300,000 shares in the Mississippi Company! After the crash of that Company, Law's property in France was seized and he moved to Brussels. His gambling skills improved as a result of his time in finances (he was able to keep track of cards played and quickly calculate the odds of drawing needed cards in his head) and he spent the next three years gambling in various cities in Europe. He had been pardoned for the earlier murder and prison escape and returned to live in London for a few years before moving to Venice – where he died of pneumonia, nearly penniless.

Because of their unique link to America, the John Law coinage has become more collectible on this side of the Atlantic, especially by those who pursue any of the other French Colonies series and can wrap their heads around the fact that not all colonial American coins have their legends in English (or Latinized versions thereof).

Purists have argued that Law was not in power until the end of 1719, and was out by early 1721, so really "only" the 1720-dated issues would qualify as American-relevant. This view is parroted in *The Redbook*, which now lists the three denominations of John Law coins, but only for the year 1720 (and incidentally greatly overvalues those denominations in relation to the rare 1720 *Livre d'Argent* silver coin.) This view seems overly restrictive, as the series started in 1719 and effectively ended in 1723 (two mints struck the half sol into 1724 and one mint, far from Paris, struck the sol denomination until 1734, all of which are excessively rare.) Since the coinage was struck for such a limited time, mostly mirroring Law's tenure, then the entire series should be considered collectible as Law-related pieces – with the understanding that the 1720-dated coinage is more desirable (and thus worth a higher price) since that was the year that Law was at the height of his power in the French economy. The mintages in years post-1723 may also have happened just to use up planchets that had been previously made – with the early success of Law's financial schemes some mint masters may have decided to get ahead of the curve a bit and produce a lot of blank planchets to have on hand for the expected large production runs – and since they had working dies and planchets, striking more coins was probably easier than melting the planchets down.

There were three denominations of copper coin issued in the John Law era: the liard was the smallest, and it was closest in size to the British farthing, though smaller and lighter than that coin (the liard was issued at 3.058 grams, while the George I British farthing, issued in the same years, weighed 5.30 grams). Next was the demi-sol or half sol, which was closest in size to a British halfpenny though again lighter (6.117 grams for the demi-sol to 10.30 for the George I halfpenny). The largest coin was the sol; had the British issued a penny coin at this time it would have been of about this size; the sol was authorized at 12.235 grams, or about 20% heavier than the British halfpence of the era and about 20% lighter than the Rosa Americana twopence which were coined a couple of years later (for which Breen gives a target weigh of 15.12 grams.) Since copper coins contained less metal than the value at which they circulated, it is likely that if any of these French pieces reached the British colonies that they circulated at the same value of their nearest British denomination by size – and even though

the French pieces were a bit lighter than the British coins they were still larger and heavier than the counterfeit British coinage which was the main copper coin in circulation in British North America!

However, there is a twist in all of this since before the end of the Revolutionary War British copper coins circulated in the colonies at twice their value back home – so a British halfpenny would have circulated at the value of a penny in most colonies, and a farthing would have circulated as a halfpenny. This greatly overvalued the copper coins of course since they had far less than their value in copper in each coin to begin with (unlike silver and gold which had very close to their metal value.) The reasoning behind this makes sense – copper prices fluctuated more than silver and gold did at the time (gold and silver prices were more or less fixed by law, whereas copper operated on a supply-and-demand type valuation) and putting full value into coppers would insure that they got melted down very quickly if the prices rose – and would be rejected as "undervalued" when prices fell. Instead these were meant to work as something like *fiat* money – everyone understood their value to be as stated, and all agreed to accept them at that level (and, of course, the Crown was ecstatic at this because they got the profit on the difference between cost of production and face value.) Copper coins were also made in greater quantities than precious metal ones, which meant that they weighed a lot more in bulk, causing much higher transportation costs to get them to various parts of the British Isles – and far more to get them over to the North American colonies, so part of that profit from them being undervalued actually paid the freight charges. The colonies, for their part, needed to have them overvalued for one simple reason – it kept the coins in America. No British merchant would take a halfpenny in trade as a penny – he had plenty of halfpennies back home where they were valued at face value (but he would happily take gold, silver or paper currency and letters of credit backed by precious metals). That meant that the copper coins that got to America stayed in America, providing the basis of the colonial American economy since they were used in day-to-day transactions whereas silver and gold were seldom seen by most residents. It was also the reason that the Rosa Americana coinage issued by William Wood was so lightweight compared to the English coinage of the time – the Rosa Americana penny is close in size as the British halfpenny, and that took into account the fact that the British colonies overvalued their copper coins so dramatically (and, of course, Wood had to pay the transport costs to get the coins to America himself, as well as a fee to the Crown for the right to coin – and perhaps the bribe money he was reported to have paid to get the contract in the first place, all of which would have to come out of whatever profit he could make.

In the end though, the value of copper coins in the British North American was not actually double their face value in terms of British currency, as each colony valued their own currency differently, setting a different number of shillings to the pound and pence to shillings – the residents of those colonies, in turn, priced their goods and labor differently, based on that equation. Costs, wages and prices would be different in each of these colonies <u>on paper</u> – but they were also somewhat relative overall when the variables were all worked out, otherwise goods and services would quickly fly to where they were valued higher. A loaf of bread in a colony like New York that valued halfpence at 12 to the New York Shilling would be priced differently in a colony like Massachusetts that valued halfpence at 18 to the New England Shilling (and to further confuse things both those colonies differed on how many of their shillings were equal to the Spanish Milled Dollar, which was the most commonly encountered silver coin in the New World) – but that same loaf of bread would cost very nearly the same amount based on how much labor was needed to buy it, or in comparison with the valuation of other goods. So, these French copper coins would have circulated in a British colony at

whatever their closest-sized British counterpart was then valued at. If a liard circulated at the same value as a farthing – but the farthing was valued as a halfpenny, then the liard would have had the value of a halfpenny in commerce.

Wayne Shelby, in the Fall, 2007 issue of *The C4 Newsletter*, noted that he had recovered several earlier and later French copper coins with a metal detector – in Burlington County, New Jersey – including several earlier *Liards de France*, as well as some later French issues into the early 1790s. The number of coins found shows that French coinage was an important part of the circulating currency in colonial America and the early United States, even in areas far removed from what would have been the French Colonies proper. The fact that some earlier liards circulated up into New Jersey suggests those were accepted the same as farthing coins in commerce in the area – which would have been valued in actual circulation, as mentioned, at a halfpenny. John Law Coppers have been found in the Louisiana Territory area, as expected[3] – but at least one example was found in New England, where it likely circulated at the halfpenny denomination.[4] The sol denomination appears not to have been found here (or at least not reported) – and that kind of makes some sense, because if the smaller two denomination French coppers circulated in the British colonies as farthing and halfpence, the larger sol wouldn't have an easy equivalent, since there was no British copper penny in existence at this time (and wouldn't be until the Matthew Boulton Soho-Mint coinage of 1797.) After the Philadelphia Mint started turning out the large cent denomination in 1793 the sol could theoretically have traded at the same rate, though it would have been a gram lighter than that coin until 1795 (and a gram and a half heavier than the reduced-weight large cents struck after 1795).

Each of these three John Law copper coinage denominations contain overdates. The following are the ones reported thus far, but it is highly likely that additional overdates will be found when collectors begin to study their coins more thoroughly. Because so little research has been done on this series, it isn't known whether these overdate die were first used in the year they were originally dated and then used again when re-dated, but the small number of dies with overdates suggests that they were likely unused dies, leftover at the end of a year and re-dated so as not to be wasted when the new calendar year started. If so, then these overdate dies may well have been used on the first varieties struck in the new year they bear, put in service before new dies with the correct year were made or ordered (undated obverse dies could, of course, be reused in any year that its design was still correct.)

[3] Thanks to Julia H. Casey for locating sources for these finds, the most interesting of which can be seen at: http://www.treasurenet.com/forums/today-s-finds/550232-sol-searchin-sunday-1721-copper-half-sol.html, which include three John Law era half sols found in the same locale.

[4] https://metaldetectingforum.com/showthread.php?t=98638&highlight=john%2Alaw

THE LIARDS

Like the British farthings, the small-denomination liard series is overall rarer than its larger copper brethren and was likely struck in smaller numbers (unfortunately no mintage figures for these survive, save for a single year at the Reims mint).

This style of liard, called the Young Bust (*Liard au Buste Enfantin*) was struck only from 1719 to 1721; Gadoury states that the years 1722 and 1723 are reported, but not confirmed (which is also the case for some mintmarks in the 1719-1721 coinage.)[5] Michael Hodder's article mentioned earlier states that "all mints" coined this denomination, but only in 1719 and 1720 – but according to Gadoury only 8 of the 29 mints struck the liard denomination – Paris, Rouen, La Rochelle, Reims, Troyes, Metz, Strasbourg, and Besancon – and Troyes struck them only in 1721.

Gadoury notes (this author's translation from the original French):

> Struck following the Edict of July 1719 (registered on August 2, 1719), which authorized 500,000 livres, or 40 million coins, officially intended 'for the relief and feeding of the poor.' As with the half sols and sols of this type, the mint records have disappeared with the exception of those from Reims. The value of this coin was raised to 8 deniers on August 28, 1720, lowered to 6 deniers on September 21st of that year and lowered again to 3 deniers on March 27, 1724.

Figure 2: 1721/0 Strasbourg Mint (BB mintmark) liard and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the overdate. The close-up photos of the overdates were taken in different lighting that showed this finer detail, and though the color looks different, all overdate photos are from the same coin as the larger photo shown.

[5] Victor Gadoury, *Monnaies Royales Francaises, 1610-1792*, Monaco, 1986. This remains the go-to reference for the French coinage from Louis XIV to Louis XVI. The text is completely in French, but the listings of date and mintmarks, as well as notes on those are understood with minimal translation.

So far, the only overdate liard reported is the one illustrated above, a 1721/0 from the Strasbourg Mint, which carries the BB mintmark on the reverse, at the base of the shield. This is an unquestioned overdate, as can be seen in the enlarged photograph of the date area above. The thinness of the underlying "0" suggests that the area was lightly ground down before the new "1" was punched in on top of it. Interestingly, the "1" punch used in the re-dating was slightly larger than the one used when the die was originally made, as can be seen by comparing it with the same numeral in the first digit of the date and was likely a punch for the letter "I" instead.

THE HALF SOLS

The French Young Bust half sol does not appear to have been struck in massive quantities, even though it would have likely been the most commonly-used copper coin in the smaller, day-to-day transactions of the time (as was the British halfpenny); it is more commonly seen, as a denomination, than either the liard and sol coppers, though there are only a couple of date-mintmark combinations that are truly common and most are scarce to rare (with a few extremely rare.) Hodder again notes that "all Mints" struck these, while Gadoury lists just eleven mints that struck the denomination – Paris, Rouen, La Rochelle, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Perpignan, Reims, Troyes, Metz, Strasbourg, and Besancon. These are the same mints that struck the liard denomination, with three additional mints that struck the denomination only in later years: Bordeaux (in 1722 and 1723 only), Montpellier (in 1724 only) and Perpignan (in 1723 and 1724 only). Unlike the liards, the coins dated 1722, 1723 and 1724 are known (not just "reported"), but nearly half of the date-mintmark combinations listed by Gadoury for those later years are listed as "reported, but not confirmed."

Gadoury notes (this cataloguer's translation from the original French):

> Struck following the Edict of June 6, 1719, with 500,000 livres (20 million coins) authorized. In order to get them into circulation they were not to be used in payments above 6 livres total. With the exception of the Reims mint, the coinage records have disappeared. The value of this coin was raised to 16 deniers on August 28, 1720, lowered to 12 deniers on September 21st of that year and finally lowered again to 6 deniers on March 27, 1724." Again, mintage records are non-existent save for two years of the Reims mint – in 1720 only 160,000 were struck, but a year later the mintage figure had climbed to 3,881,120 pieces, and if the other mints followed a similar pattern of greater mintages in 1721 then the idea that the later years coinage was done at least partially to use up previously-made planchets or dies gains some credence. The addition of three new mints may indicate that planchets from other mints were shipped to them to coin (though Perpignan is known for the worst copper planchet quality of any of the 29 French mints in this era, and it is likely that mint, at least, produced its own planchet stock – an example of which will be seen in the discussion of the sol denomination that follows.)

Figure 3: 1720/19 Metz Mint (AA mintmark) half sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the overdate.

Again, just a single overdate half sol has been reported so far, a 1720/19 example from the Metz Mint. Another unquestioned overdate, the original "9" is clearly visible beneath the "0" in the date, and a hint of what was likely the base of the original 1 can be seen at the left base of the "2." Note that the "2" is slightly high in relation to the other numerals, and while the base of the original "9" appears low, it is actually placed correctly in relation to where the original "1" would have been next to it.

THE SOLS

The sol denomination was the largest copper coin minted in the John Law era, larger than any British coin in circulation in that country at the time (though, as mentioned, the *Rosa Americana* twopence minted in England for use in America was about 20% larger than the sol.) Hodder again states "all Mints" struck the denomination, but Gadoury notes more mints striking this denomination than the other copper issues – Paris, Rouen, Tours, Poitiers, La Rochelle, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Perpignan, Reims, Nantes, Troyes, Bourges, Metz, Strasbourg, and Besancon. However, more than half of the date-mintmarks listed in Gadoury are "reported, but not confirmed" – including all years of some mints, so the actual number of mints that struck the denomination may be slightly lower. Mintage records, again, are non-existent save for three years of the Reims Mint where (unlike the half sols) the mintage started off fairly high – 1,742,532 in 1719 –and dipped to 380,000 and 291,200 in the following years. The sol denomination was struck from 1719-1723, and the Perpignan Mint struck the denomination in 1724, 1725, 1726, 1728 (unlisted in Gadoury), 1729 (also unlisted) and 1734. No explanation has been given for the longevity of the Perpignan Mint coinage of this denomination – the unused planchet theory doesn't fit here, as one would expect them to be coined within a year or two, not stretched out for over a decade. The later Perpignan years are

all extremely rare today, which suggests rather small mintages to begin with - a mystery for researchers to ponder.

Gadoury notes (this cataloguer's translation from the original French):

> Struck following the Edict of May, 1719 (registered on June 6, 1719) which authorized 500,000 livres or 10 million coins. In order to facilitate trade as well as to pay the wages of day laborers (a common situation at the time), the coins were not to be used in transactions higher than 6 livres total, or the value of an Ecu. As with the half sols and liards of this type, we could not locate mint records, save for those of Reims. The value of this coin was raised to 32 deniers on August 28, 1720, then lowered to 24 deniers on September 21st of that year, then down to 20 deniers on December 3rd of that year and finally lowered to 12 deniers by the order of March 27, 1724 (registered on April 4, 1724). The Edict of May, 1722 allowed an additional mintage of 198,502 marcs of copper coinage (the equivalent of 3,970,040 sols at 20 sols to the marc) for the *Compaigne des Indes*. The *Compagnie* had stated that its offices in Hamburg still held this amount of Swedish copper planchets which it had purchased or produced when it had the monopoly for the striking and circulation of coins within the French kingdom. The Council of Regency granted the license necessary to import these blank planchets and to strike additional liards, half sols and sols at Rouen and La Rochelle (60,000 marcs apiece,) Nantes (44,000 marcs) and Bordeaux (34,502 marcs.)

Unlike the previous two denominations, there are several overdates known in the larger sol series. This may indicate a larger mintage based on the frequency of overdates, though the lack of mint records makes that unknowable. It could also just be that these dies were larger and therefore more costly to make – so recycling and re-dating would be even more cost-effective. It is also quite likely that if some of those "reported, but not confirmed" date and mintmark combinations do exist that more overdates for the denomination will be found.

Figure 3: 1720/19 Paris Mint (A mintmark) sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the overdate.

The first up is a possible overdate, which is certainly not as clear as the previous ones. In hand, this looks more like 1720/19 than in the photo above, with the original "1" suggest at the long vertical part of the "2," and the misshapen "0" due to the repunching over the original "9."

The Paris Mint was the main mint at the time and would have certainly had a number of engravers on hand to cut new dies as needed, so an overdate here is unexpected (but certainly not unknown since we have already mentioned nearly 40 different overdates for the *Sous Marques* reported for this mint alone.) While this one isn't bold, the discovery of other specimens may be useful in deciding whether it is a true overdate or not – however, that may be difficult because 1720-A is one of the date-mintmark combinations that Gadoury lists as "reported, but not confirmed." This is very unexpected since, as mentioned, the Paris Mint was the main one, 1720 was the main year of John Law's control of finances and the Mint struck both the liard and half sol denominations for the year (in what must have been quite large quantities since both are fairly common today).

Figure 4: 1720/19 Reims Mint (S mintmark) sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the overdate.

The next overdate sol is one with a much clearer overdate and is a 1720/19 from the Reims Mint. The vertical part of the original "1" is visible at the left edge of the "2" and the curved base of the original "9" is visible at the lower left part of the "0" where it connects with the right base of the "2" in the overdate.

The third overdate sol is also a 1720/19, this one from the Metz Mint. On this variety, the original "1" is clear at the middle of the "2" that was punched over it, and much of the original "9" can be seen under the newer "0" that was added to the die. This overdate variety is interesting in that both of the examples seen of it are on very large planchets of 32mm (the sols from the mints other than the late Perpignan pieces average 30 mm) – the coins weigh the same, they are just wider and thinner. Since the planchets were cut from rolled strip, this means

that a larger cutter was used and the strip purposely rolled thinner so that the planchets weighed what they were supposed to despite the larger diameter. Why were these planchets so different? Yet another mystery for the researcher to solve!

Figure 5: 1720/19 Metz Mint (AA mintmark) sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photo of the overdate.

Figure 6: 1723/2 Perpignan Mint (Q mintmark) sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the overdate.

The fourth overdate comes from the Perpignan Mint, located in the very southernmost part of France – indeed, just a short distance from the border with Spain. This means that Perpignan was the mint located furthest from Paris and thus likely the least-supervised as well.

This is supported by the generally poor quality of copper coinage that emanated from its presses. Collectors of American colonials should recognize the name and its distinct "Q" mintmark from one of the legendary rarities listed in *The Redbook* – the 1717 copper coinage from this mint, in 6 and 12 denier denominations, that was made specifically for North American circulation. These extreme rarities are discussed in Syd Martin's work on French Colonies coinage. The quality of that coinage has rightly been described as wretched, with the copper ore both too brassy and poorly annealed when it was made into planchet stock – one reason it was discontinued. It is extremely likely that Perpignan had a large supply of this low-quality copper and used it on the John Law half sols and sols that it produced (it did not strike the liard denomination), and the example illustrated above is actually better than normal for a Perpignan issue but still shows brassy color and planchet flaws and cracks from the poor alloy and its annealing. Along with poor planchet quality, the coinage of this mint, in this era, also seems to be afflicted with poor die-making skills, and they are usually the crudest official coinage of every denomination they issued, which gives them their own unique charm, especially among collectors of American colonials who appreciate the crude look of these coins.

The overdate here is subtle, with the lower base of the original "2" visible at the base of the "3," especially at the right side where it extends further out than the curve of the "3" does.

Figure 7: 1726/5 Perpignan Mint (Q mintmark) sol and, below, a greatly enlarged photograph of the suspected overdate.

The final overdate sol is again from Perpignan. It was described as a 1726/5 when it was last privately sold, and it may be – or it may not. The date area on this coin is a bit weakly struck at the final two digits, and there is a huge cud and die break extending from it to the left of the date, and it is possible that what looks like the left tail of the "5" under the "6" may be a result of that diebreak. Perpignan is known to have struck this denomination in both 1725 and 1726, so an overdate is certainly possible, though this is the most ambiguous of the ones listed

in this paper. The distinct cud and diebreak should allow researchers to easily compare other examples of this date – if the same die is found with a stronger date that shows an overdate (or doesn't), then the answer will be known. Until then, we shall list this as a "possible overdate."

The "John Law Coppers" are a fertile avenue for numismatic research, and as they naturally tie-in to colonial America, it will likely be American and Canadian collectors who make further discoveries in this fascinating series. Even better, though John Law's policies nearly bankrupted a country, adding these copper coins to your collection will hardly bankrupt you today – the more common date-mintmark varieties can be found for under $100 a coin in decent circulated grades (sometimes for well under that amount,) and the extremely rare dates have yet to sell for more than the very low four-figures (you also have the ability to collect by date and mintmark – something lost with all the other colonial coin series from England and the various colonies and states.) *Bonne chance!*

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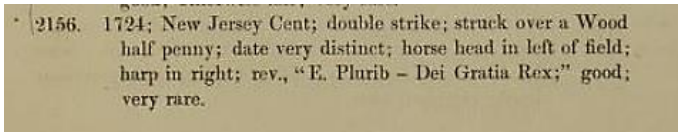
BUILDING A PROVENANCE FOR AN UNUSUAL COIN

(Syd Martin)

The coin in question. I recently purchased an intriguing coin.[1] It is a 56-n New Jersey copper struck over a 1724 Woods Hibernia halfpenny:

I was aware of the existence of this coin from a catalogue in my collection. It was auctioned by Mason & Co.; *The Fewsmith Cabinet of Foreign and American Silver and Copper Coins, Medals, Etc. Etc.*; Leavitt, Strebeight & Co. Auctioneers; 4 October 1870; Lot 2156.[2] The catalogue description is:



2156. 1724; New Jersey Cent; double strike; struck over a Wood half penny; date very distinct; horse head in left of field; harp in right; rev., "E. Plurib – Dei Gratia Rex;" good; very rare.

It can be seen that the coin exactly matches the description in the Fewsmith catalogue. I've been able to attribute the Hibernia undertype as variety 4.67-K.3.[3]

Building its provenance. My annotated copy of the Fewsmith auction catalogue indicates that the lot was purchased by "Ashborn" for $.30. (I published a request for any information relating to this coin in C4N, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 2013, p. 5), but was unable to learn anything about it.

With Heritage's assistance, I contacted the consignor to find out what info he could provide.[4] This is what I've learned:

The consignor is John E. Taussig (lives in San Francisco, aged 73, and doesn't collect coins). He inherited it from his father, William Guild Taussig (1889 - 1955) who was an active coin collector in the early 20th century. William lived in Boston (or Cambridge) and was an investment advisor. John is unsure whether his father inherited the coin or purchased it; he does not think his grandfather was a collector — his grandfather is Frank William Taussig, PhD (1859-1940) who was an Economics Professor at Harvard. John is unaware of anyone in his family with the last surname Ashborn.

So, the provenance of this coin begins sometime before 1870, in the noted collection of William Fewsmith; it passed into the hands of "Ashborn"[5] in October 1870; then appeared sometime in the early 20th century in the collection of William Taussig (there may have been owners between Ashborn and William Taussig); thence to his son John Taussig in 1955; and finally into my collection in January 2018.

Endnotes:

[1] Heritage, 7 January 2018, Lot 7030; graded VF30 by NGC.

[2] William Fewsmith was a noted numismatist of the mid 19th century. From Mason's Monthly Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine, Vol. 4, No. 12, 1 December 1870: "The principal numismatic event of the year was the four days sale of the Fewsmith cabinet in New York. Other sales of minor importance have occurred but the four days sale will be remembered as an event second only in interest to the sale of the Mickley cabinet in 1867."

[3] Martin, Sydney, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007.

[4] Telephonic communications between the author and John Taussig during January 2018.

[5] There does not appear to be any record of an Ashborn at the American Numismatic Society, this per archivist David Hill.

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C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE BOOK REVIEW

RON CHERNOW'S *HAMILTON*

(Leo Shane)

I encourage all C4 members to take up the C4 Library Challenge and write a brief summary of a book they borrowed from the C4 library. Below is a summary *of Alexander Hamilton* which is the second book I am submitting for your review. Remember, your summary will help other members find books that are relative to what they collect or what is interesting to them in an area of US History they are exploring. Happy reading to all. Leo

Book: *Alexander Hamilton*

Author: Ron Chernow

Edition: Penguin Books, New York NY, 2005

Summary: As the title indicates, this book is a treatise on the life of Alexander Hamilton. It includes his personal life from birth to death, his military life under George Washington and his political life as arguably the second most powerful figure in the fledging United States.

Hamilton started life as a poor orphan in the West Indies and rose to be one of the most powerful figures responsible for the forming of our nation's political and financial systems. Along the way, he had to overcome his early history and some personal dalliances. He did this through a brilliant intellect and an almost manic dedication to detail. His energy was limitless and his loyalty to the new nation cannot be questioned even if his tactics were sometimes too blunt for others during his time. He was a true patriot and he loved his adopted country.

Hamilton was a father of seven (eight, but one died in a duel,) a devout husband and a prolific writer. His criticism and analysis of political rivals and their policies was well known by all Americans whether on his side or of the opposition. Writing under the anonymity of pseudonyms he was able to directly attack and criticize rivals and their proposals. He did this with such frequency both as the protagonist and the defender that it is a wonder that he had any time for much else. He was very straightforward and forceful about his beliefs and there was no doubt about where he stood on most issues of the day.

There is little in the way of numismatics in this book but if you enjoy reading about the forming of our nation, the evolution of our financial system and political intrigue, this book will give you many hours of enjoyable reading. Although it is over 700 pages long and is a slow read, you will be greatly rewarded with the detail and insight that Ron Chernow gives you.

Comment: In addition to Hamilton, this book reviews many political figures of the time. More in depth insights into three of our founding fathers are of particular note. The personalities of George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson are shown in the context of the time after the Revolutionary War.

Washington is shown as a leader with great prestige and honor but reluctant to engage in the politics of the time. He performs his duties as president out of duty to his beloved country. He seems happy to use Hamilton as his advisor and seems to defer to him on many matters.

John Adams is viewed as a "deer caught in the headlights" between the Federalists and Republicans. He is shown to be vain and politically thin-skinned, especially when it comes to dealing with Hamilton and Jefferson. During his presidency, he frequently retreats to Quincy MA to escape political infighting.

Finally, Thomas Jefferson is depicted as a naïve Plantation owner who believes the country can survive as a "loose confederation of Agriculture States." He wants neither a strong central government nor industry. He is anti-industry opting that the nation can survive on agriculture only. These beliefs put him in direct opposition to Alexander Hamilton.

Having read the book, I will never look at these founding fathers in the same light as I previously did. I also have a much better appreciation for the struggles in forming a new nation out of 13 independent colonies.

Recommendation: This book is one of the best books I have read with regard to the forming of our new nation. It may look a little daunting at first, but it is well worth the journey. I highly recommend it to all members. It is available from the C4 Library.

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C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Let's all help our fellow C4 members as well as future C4 members. *TAKE THE C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE.* Borrow and read a book. Then write a book summary for publication in the *C4 Newsletter*.

In this update you will find books from two of our departed members. They are published through the generosity of some of our fellow colonial collectors. They are available for loan. Check them out.

Below are new items acquired by the club since the last C4 Library Update. They are now available for loan to all C4 and EAC members in good standing. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org. Thanks to all who have donated items.

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety. Thanks.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs

- Martin, Robert M., *A Descriptive List of Connecticut Coppers in the Collections of the American Numismatic Society*, From the 1985 Observations and Notes of Robert M. Martin Illustrated 2011, Privately Published, 2017 - Donated by Randy Clark

- Retz, Rob, *Fugio Copper Notes,* Original Notes by Rob Retz 2004, Renewed by Margaret Retz 2016, Edited by Jeff Rock 2016, Privately Published, 2016 – Acquired by C4

- Sullivan, Chester, *Castorland Jetons In Silver,* Handout from the Public Forum Presentation at the C4 Convention in Baltimore MD, 4 November 2016 – Donated by Chester Sullivan

- Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World & US Coin and Paper Money Auction 23,* 15-16 May 2018, Winter Park FL – Donated by Daniel Sedwick

- *Photos From the 2010 C4 Convention in Boston taken by Syd Martin,* CD and Prints, (includes group photo of approximately 50 members), 12-14 November 2010, – Syd Martin

- Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, *The Kensington Collection,* 12-13 December 1975, Los Angeles CA – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, *The William R. Sieck Collection,* 28 July-1 August 1981, New Orleans LA – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Stacks, *The Robinson Collection of United States Silver & Copper Coins And Colonial Coins,* 10-13 February 1982, New York NY – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Stacks, *The Greater New York Numismatic Convention Sales of United States Ancient & Foreign Coins, 13-15 May 1982*, New York NY – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Bowers and Merena, *The Collections of Rudy Sieck and Roy Harte*, 26-28 March 1984, New York NY – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Bowers and Merena, *The Lee F. Hewitt Collection,* 14 November 1984, New York NY – Donated by Gary Trudgen

- Stacks Bowers, *The Beasley and Fairmont Collections, 21-22 and 25-26 June 2018,* Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

- Stacks Bowers, *The March 2018 Baltimore Auction, US Coins and Exonumia*, 21-23 and 26-27 March 2018, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You, my E Mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com.

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[Editor's Note: The following classic article appeared in the very first issue of the C4 Newsletter (vol. 1, no. 1, August 1993, a limited edition of 100 on watermarked paper. Your editor proudly still has his.) It has here been edited only sparingly, as to format. It's author, Michael Hodder, was then C4N's "editor pro tem." In fact, at that time, Michael effectively was C4N, accounting for nearly all of the content it contained.]

PUNCH LINK EVIDENCE AND ATTRIBUTING EARLY AMERICAN COPPER COINS

(Michael Hodder)

After you've been collecting state coppers for a while you get to wanting to know more about the coins you've been buying. You want to know something about what mints struck them, who was running the mints and who their workers were, how many may have been struck, and so on. When you get really advanced you start noticing what look like die and punch links between different coins and you begin wondering exactly what these sorts of observations mean about who struck what when, where, and why.

The basic sources for the history of state coppers are still *Crosby's Early American Coins* and Breen's *Encyclopedia*, plus Bressett's study of Vermonts in the 1976 ANS volume. To this can be added Breen's cataloguing of the 1975 EAC sale for Connecticuts, your editor's cataloguing of the Norweb and Ryder-Boyd sales (plus, maybe, Henry Garrett's and Harry Rescigno's New Jerseys.) There are a bunch of others I could mention, but the ones I've listed include the really basic sources.

You'll soon come across the name of James F. Atlee. He was one of the signatories to the Machin's Mills partnership agreement. Crosby noticed what he believed were several punch linkages across different coin issues, linking many Vermont, New Jersey, and Connecticut varieties together. The most famous of all the punch links Crosby believed he had found was the "Broken A" punch. Crosby first linked Atlee's name to the common punches, supposing that Atlee was an itinerant die sinker who worked in several different mints at different times, always using parts of the same set of letter punches on whatever dies he made.

As time went on, numismatists who studied state coppers and counterfeit British halfpence accepted Crosby's theory about Atlee and his set of letter punches. A few voices were raised against the belief, notably Damon Douglas', but these went unheard because the weight of scholarship was against them. By 1993 most coin books, Breen's included, have enshrined Atlee as the colonial era die sinker par excellence. The current edition of the standard *Red Book* even has an elaborate chronology worked out for Atlee's imitation British halfpence and places Atlee in some kind of loose partnership arrangements with Walter Mould, John Bailey, and Ephraim Brasher.

Your editor challenged the Atlee connection and disassembled his early chronology in a *CNL* article in v. 31, n. 1 ("The 1787 'New York' Immunis Columbia: A Mystery Re-ravelled.") This article was so complex and difficult to follow for most collectors that it has largely been overlooked. Now comes Peter Gaspar's "Coining and Die-making in the 17th Century" (see above section Forthcoming Publications for the citation.)[1] In an article that

concentrates on the ascendancy of the screw press over the older rocker and roller die presses, Gaspar describes techniques current in 17th and 18th century France and England for what he calls "the mechanical reproduction of punches." Gaspar shows that punches for coining dies were routinely raised from master matrices. The shape of a letter A, for example, would first be cut by hand into a block of steel, the A being incuse in the block. This is called a matrix. After the matrix block was hardened, it was punched into another, smaller block, creating a raised impression of the letter A. This is called a punch. The beauty of this technique was that one matrix could raise many identical punches. All letter As, for example, raised from the same matrix would look identical one to the other.

This technology was in common use in late 17th century English, French, and Scottish mints. It may even have been used to make roller dies in Spain. Three Scottish matrices for raising punches for coins issued 1675-1682 still survive, preserved in Edinburgh. John Craig, author of the standard history of the Royal Mint (*The Mint*, recently replaced by *The New History of the Royal Mint*, both of which should be in any advanced collector's library,) notes on p. 204 that for the period 1700 onwards "Separate matrices were cut for each letter or number. A puncheon was raised by each matrix in the largest of the coining rooms." Craig goes on to say that the engravers did the matrices for the bust and reverse shield designs but apprentices did the matrices for letters and numbers.

We know that England was the chief source for letter and number punches bought by 18th century American silver and goldsmiths. Gaspar and Craig have shown that mass producing coin punches started in the 17th century and by 1700 was the common way to make coinage punches. Thus, we have a technology that had been in use for 100 years, and was the standard for over 80, in the chief mint of the country from which American engravers routinely bought their punches.

The logical conclusion is inescapable. When we see what look like identical punches on different colonial coppers we're probably looking at punches that really were identical. But, that doesn't necessarily mean, any longer, that only one set of punches was involved, all owned by one wandering die sinker named Atlee. In order to establish as a fact that all the punches were one man's we need more evidence than just the observation that they look alike. We know, now, that punches could, in some cases even should, look alike. We need some more data that links varieties together, especially ones that are found in different coin series, before we can create elaborate attribution structures and name names responsible for coining them.

We may also have to re-think Abel Buell's role in the Connecticut and Fugio series. Maybe he didn't actually hub Connecticut dies with his own puncheons, maybe he ordered them directly from some mass production punch making operation in England?

This sort of research information may be outside most collector's interest. Your editor thought it was important enough to pass on here, however. There's no field of U.S. numismatics so full of myth and legend than colonials.

[1]The citation referenced is: *Metallurgy and Numismatics*, vol. 3, Royal Numismatic Society special publication no. 24 (1993, recently published date by Spink & Son, Ltd., London) contains an extremely important article by Peter Gaspar entitled "Coining and Die-making Techniques in the 17th Century."

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Early American Coppers

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All issues of Penny-Wise, back to the first issue in the fall of 1967, are available to the world on the Newman Numismatic Portal. Issues published in the last two years are available in the "Members Only" section of the EAC website. The Members only section includes a wealth of information, video and media presentations.

Annual EAC Convention

The EAC Convention is held in early spring. This year we will meet at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. Meeting sites are rotated throughout the United States. In addition, EAC holds meetings and symposiums in conjunction with major coin conventions. They are the best way for new members to become familiar with early coppers and to meet others who share similar interests.

Region 8

Members enjoy a weekly newsletter email, consisting of submissions from other Region 8 members. Any EAC member can join Region 8.

Copper Notes and Dark Side

Copper Notes is EAC's online community, our very own private Facebook page. All EAC members are welcome but must request an invitation. Copper Notes is not visible to the general Facebook population. Enjoy real time conversations with the experts! Dark Side is a similar format discussing counterfit Coins and anomalies.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

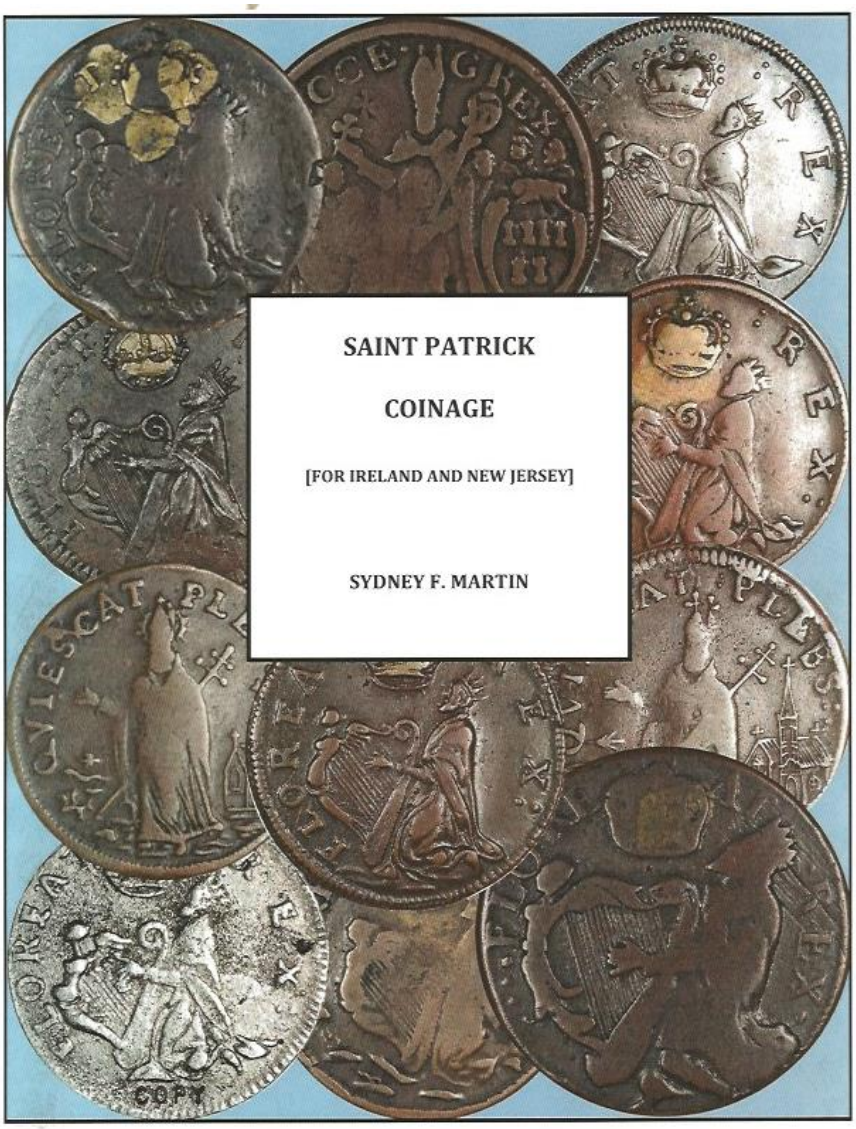
The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Announces The Release of the Definitive Book on the St. Patrick Coinage by Sydney F. Martin

Boston – May 27, 2018 – today, The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, (C4), released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *Saint Patrick Coinage For Ireland and New Jersey*. This is the fourth book published by C4 that has been written by Syd Martin, the former editor of the *C4 Newsletter* and current President of The American Numismatic Society. His other works are *The Rosa Americana Coinage* of *William Wood*, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*, and *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. These books are all considered the standard references for these series today. Syd's latest work covers a series that has long vexed researchers on both sides of the Atlantic – the St. Patrick coinage. In researching this book Syd traveled to Ireland and spent many hours in the archives in New Jersey in search of clues, discovering some fascinating answers and developing several new theories regarding the coinage. This coinage has long been shrouded in mystery as to when and where it was made, and for what purpose. Syd discusses the theories that have been proposed so far, and the pros and cons of each plus some exciting new theories of his own.

According to Lou Jordan, the Curator of Numismatic Collections for the University of Notre Dame, this book is "groundbreaking!" Phil Mossman, former editor of *The Colonial Newsletter* (*CNL*), writes that "Syd has described in detail the visual imagery and icons symbolized on these coins by hand-engraved dies. A total of 197 varieties of small St. Patrick coins have been meticulously cataloged by him and presented in an easy to follow format." Mossman went on to state that "the nine varieties of large St. Patrick coppers, identified as a separate entity, are equally well presented." Christopher McDowell, editor of *CNL*, states that "this is the most important book on colonial numismatics to be published in many years. It is doubtful that this book will ever be surpassed in its coverage of the series. If you collect St. Patrick coinage or are interested in colonial numismatics, this book is a must-have."

In many ways this work is a collaborative effort, helped by many collectors who shared access to their St. Patrick collections for Syd to examine and photograph. The result is the first complete and illustrated catalogue of all known varieties in the series; unlike Syd's earlier three books, this one features color photographs. Other topics covered include the manufacturing history of the coins, literary discussion of the series, a history of their circulation in America, and a fascinating Appendix that includes what Syd calls "Miscellany." According to Phil Mossman, what Syd calls "Miscellany" is actually "well-researched inquiries into the lineage of an elusive series." C4 is very proud to publish this book and its long association with Syd Martin.

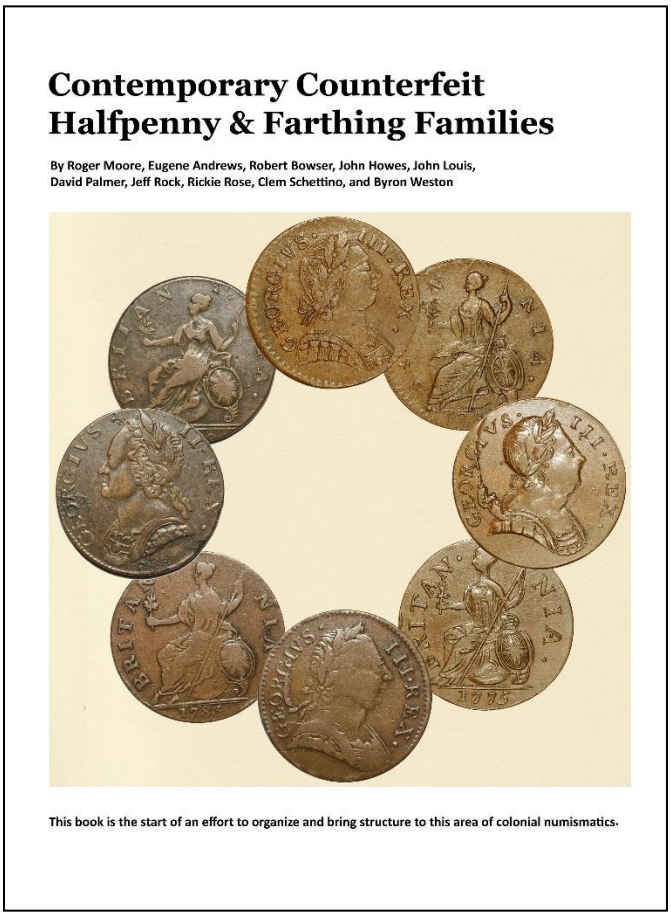
The 528 page book is hardbound, with color illustrations throughout of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket. *Saint Patrick Coinage: For Ireland and New Jersey*, by Sydney F. Martin, is available for $95 for C4 members or $125 for nonmembers of C4, plus $7.25 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (numisbook.com,) Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.



The Colonial Coin Collectors Club announces a 2nd printing:

CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT HALFPENNY AND FARTHING FAMILIES, 2nd PRINTING

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston


Contemporary Counterfeit
Halfpenny & Farthing Families
By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis,
David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston
This book is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics.

This monograph is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics: it breaks down the vast number of different varieties into related groups called Families. A Family of contemporary counterfeits is a group of coins that likely came from the same minting operation at about the same time. Families are logical groups that share one or more of the following attributes: dies, die making punches, or similarities in the design style. This updated large format, glossy hardcover, 294 pages and profusely illustrated in color will be available in July for $54.95 from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers. Check specifically for ISBN 978-1-64255-857-9.

Comments on ***Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny and Farthing Families***:

Jim Rosen, Past President, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.:

"Finally, a wonderful and badly needed reference book of extraordinary importance that for the first time begins the monumental task of putting order to the unorganized field of counterfeit halfpence and farthings."

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THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic

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COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4.) The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for $50 plus $4.00 p&h for members or $75 plus $4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at dughistory@juno.com or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at RohrerC@cadmus.com or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

J. Howes; 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $10 for the first and $8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

dughistory@juno.com
609-261-6662 (Home)

C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

(1) Carlotto, Tony, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: $165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: $10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price $85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price $85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: $85.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price $85.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob ..
http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=

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RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or call.

TO ALL MEMBERS:
A C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE - REITERATED

(Leo Shane, C4 Librarian)

The C4 Library has grown to almost 300 Books and over 700 Auction Catalogs (full and partial.) In addition, there are many non print recordings and other miscellaneous items. Many titles are out of print and hard to find. Some titles are rare. A complete listing can be viewed on the club website.

As the C4 Librarian I'd like to issue a challenge to all C4 Members. The challenge covers the next 12 months (roughly 1 November 2017 to 1 November 2018.) During that time, I'd like every member to borrow at least one item from the C4 Library, read it and then write a ½ to 1 page summary for publication in the C4 Newsletter. The summary should identify:

1.) What was borrowed? (title, author, edition)
2.) What was the subject matter in the item.?
3) Why did you borrow that particular item?
4) What did you learn from reading/studying it?
5) What other C4 Members would benefit from borrowing this item?

Many of the items in our library are not familiar to other members especially newer members. This Challenge will accomplish two things: First – You will learn something new that you didn't know before. Second – You will be alerting other C4 members to items that may help them increase their hobby knowledge.

As the inscription on the Fugio Cent says, "Time Flys So Mind your Business." Make this challenge your business to increase our understanding of the Coins and Paper Money we collect.

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PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jack Howes. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Alex Ariker - CA	Nicholas D'Amico - NJ	Jeff Hawk - NJ
William Buxton - FL	Allan Davisson - MN	Martin Smith - TX

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C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently $30.00 for Regular Membership ($40 if residing outside the United States) and $10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; $15 is non US resident.) They are payable on a calendar year basis… due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or $750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer
PO Box 25
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner… It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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COLONIAL HAPPENING AT EAC 2018
May 3, 2018 Traverse City, MI

EAC 2018 Convention will be here before you know it! After the EAC Reception on Thursday evening, our three "Happenings" are held, each geared toward Large Cents, Half Cents and Colonials. The Colonial Happening welcomes all to attend and participate (if desired.) We encourage you to bring something pre-federal to the gathering. We use a camera and projector to show the item on a screen for all to view, discuss and learn. Bring your favorite coin, something you have questions about, an oddity, colonial paper, a medal or token... but most important, **bring yourself**.

Those participating in the Large Cent and Half Cent Happenings are encouraged to duck in whenever they can for as long as they can. If you have any questions, contact Ray Williams njraywms@optonline.net.

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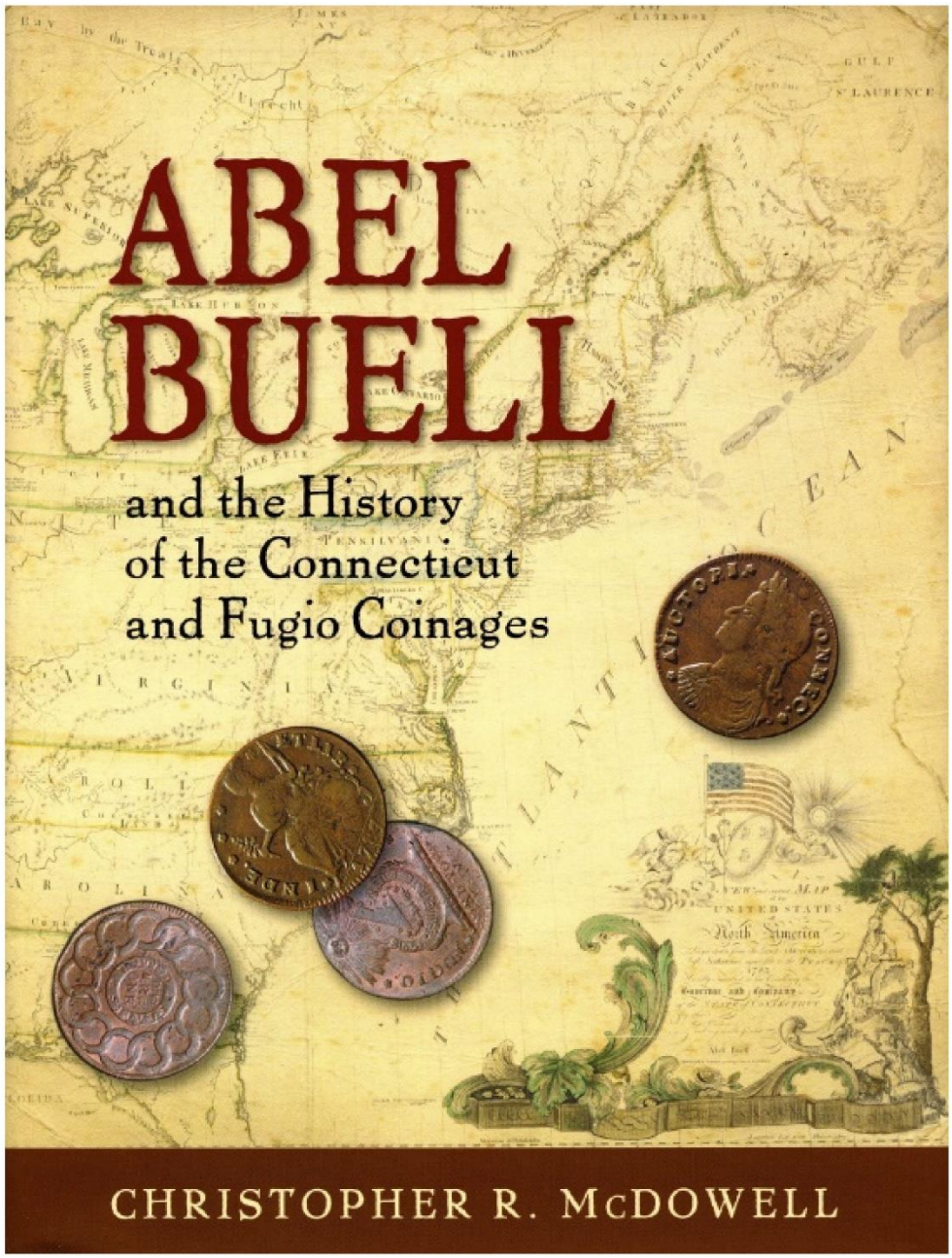
I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at ahminiman@gmail.com, or (201) 317-4199.

Support the C4 Club education initiatives buy this book:



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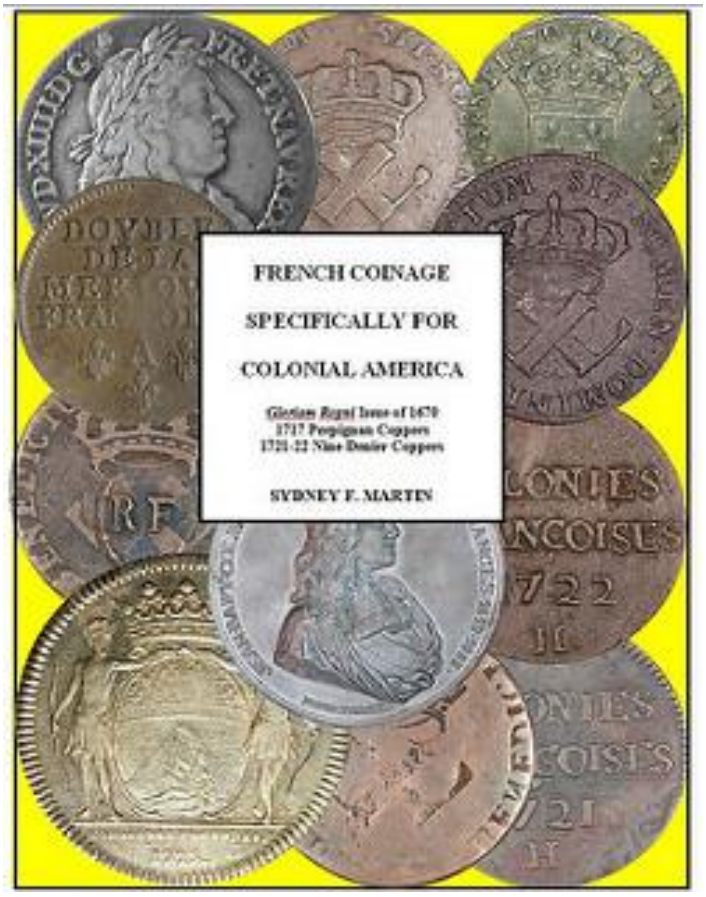

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.

According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."

"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."

In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-organized approach and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480 page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for $85.00 plus $7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (http://www.numisbook.com/), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchial presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such a rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at csull@ku.edu.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Due to increased publications and mailing costs, the charge for half and full-page ads will increase for Volume 24. The new rates are shown below. These rates are still below comparable newsletters.

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	$300	$450	$600	$750	6" x 9"
1/2 page	$175	$250	$325	$400	6" x 4.5"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally $200 additional.) If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional $10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

Todd Gredesky PO Box 102 Woodbury, NJ 08096

856-803-6102(cell) email: njtodd7@hotmail.com

2002 C4 Auction Catalog $8

2004 C4 Auction Catalog $8

2009 C4 Auction Catalog $8

2010 C4 Auction Catalog $8

Foreign buyers add $3 postage.

Wanted Canadian Auction Catalogs featuring Blacksmith tokens.

COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

Interested in acquiring a complete, original, unholed set of the Colonial Newsletter. Will pay any reasonable price. Contact novacaesarea@yahoo.com.

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www.CabinetsByCraig.net (note that it's **.net**), or call 972-978-7710, or write: PO Box 1231, Frisco, TX 75034.

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LOST CENTS, DEAD OWNERS: Appreciating Coins in Decay.
If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how old coppers decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins.) Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

My book is available from Books123.org or from other Internet sellers like Amazon.com. It costs $24.95 (less than a corroded Draped Bust cent.)
Thanks. Michael S. Shutty, Jr.

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COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPERS: I am collecting all information, images and data on colonial Virginian coppers. Please share with me your photos of counterstamped, defaced, or unusual coppers. In addition copies of any stories, old newsprint articles or papers relating to the Virginians would be appreciated. Thank you. You can contact me at rogermoore435@yahoo.com. Thank you!! Roger Moore

"Colonial, cut, countermarked and Caribbean coins (and some other odds and ends as well.) I am starting to sell a few pieces and have put up a website to that end. Please take a look at eastrockcoins.com. Peter Griffin."

Attribution Guide for New Jersey Coppers by Michael Demling.
Large soft bound $44.95; Small soft bound $34.95; Hard bound $94.95; Shipping $3.95 on any order.
Please note copies are limited. Please inquire before ordering.
mdemling@mdaarchitects.com
Michael Demling 1750 Zion Rd Suite 106A Northfield, NJ 08225

Clement V. Schettino; PO Box 1093; Saugus, MA 01906
copperclem@comcast.net; copperclem.com

Some of the Earliest American Coppers. Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish Halfpence and Farthings. My personal collections built over the past decade are now for sale. We now have a webpage up and running with most all coins imaged and priced.

More will go up from time to time. I also have some Colonials and Spanish American Colonials-Cobs up. There are currently about 12 categories populated with coins for sale, they are; British George II, British George III, Irish George II, Irish George III, Counterstamps, Cast Ctfts, Mules, Errors, Regales Colonials and Cobs. In the near future I will be adding some interesting Misc pieces.

I am still selling CD's of my collections, the details are on the webpages.

Postage is always free for C4 and EAC members. Please use the savings towards next year's dues ;-).

Please visit the webpages at copperclem.com and feel free to email with any questions.

I am interested in acquiring unusual (e.g., mis-struck, counterstamped, love tokens) and high condition examples of St. Patrick coinage. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. Syd Martin: sfmartin5@comcast.net or 215-348-8149.

John Kraljevich Americana

www.jkamericana.com

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